STORY
Shizuku Totono
ART
Daisuke Hagiwara
NEKO
NEKO
NEKO
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SHIN AND KOYUKI, MARRIED. HOW AUSPICIOUS.
THAT'S SECURED OUR FAMILY'S FUTURE.
AH HA HA HA HA!
TODAY ...
... I GOT MARRIED.
MY HUSBAND IS MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS OLDER THAN I AM.
HE'S FROM A GOOD FAMILY, HE'S INTELLIGENT ...
CHIRA (GLANCE)

...AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE.

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CHUN (CHIRP)
CHUN
SHIN-SAN, IT'S MORNING.
NGUH?
ZUMO (SQUIRM)
MO
MO
MO
WAKE U—
HIKU (FLINCH)
SU (SLIDE)
SU
SU
YAWWWN
SH-SHIN-SAN... YOU WEAR THAT WHEN YOU SLEEP TOO?
YES, FOR MY JOB.
G—
GOOD MORNING.
MORNING ALREADY... G'MORNING ...
MUKURI (RISE)
I DEAL WITH A LOT OF WEIRDNESS, SO I HAVE TO KEEP MY FACE HIDDEN...
KOKUN (NOD)
KOKUN
...'COS I NEVER KNOW WHEN I MIGHT GET... POSSESSED ...

YOU SAID YOU HAD TO WORK THIS MORNING, REMEMBER!?
YOU SHOULDN'T GO BACK TO SLEEP!
HA! (SIGH)
LOOK...
MOSO (WIGGLE)
I SEE...
GAU (SHOCK)
SHIN-SAN!?
GUU (SNORE)
...BUT I'M PUSHING FORTY. FOR OLD GUYS LIKE ME, MORNINGS ARE TOUGH.
...TEENAGERS LIKE YOU HAVE STAMINA. YOU CAN BE ENERGETIC IN THE MORNING...
GABA (BOLT)
DAAAAAAH! ALL RIGHT!!
I'M UP, OKAY!?
YUSA (SHAKE)
SHIN-SAN. PLEASE GET UP.
YUSA
SHIN-SAN.
YUSA
Y-YOU CAN'T!! BESIDES, BREAKFAST IS READY!!
LEMME SLEEP...

PIKA (FREEZE)
ピ
ARE YOU HAPPY N...
ラ
BO (ROOMF)
ばばば
UH
BO
BO
Y-YES.
はっ
HA (GASP)
LET'S EAT AFTER THAT.
I'M GONNA TO GO WASH MY FACE.
ぽん
PON (PAT)
SORRY.
カ
KAA (BLUSH)
OH... UM...
I, UM...

KAAAAA
MY HEART WAS BEATING SO FAST !!!
HE HELD MY HAND !!
PATAN (SHUT)
HE...
SEKO (BUSTLE)
SEKO
DID HE THINK I WAS STRANGE!? OOOH, I'M SUCH A DUMMY!!
BABA (FLAP)
BABA
WHAT'LL I DO? I JUST KNOW I LOOKED WEIRD!!
...SHIN-SAN WASN'T THE LEAST BIT DISTURBED.
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE HE'S A GROWN-UP?
KOYUKI VISION
POYAN (DAZE)
HIS HANDS WERE BIG.
BUT...

...
CHIRA (TINY)
I MUST STILL SEEM LIKE A CHILD TO HIM.
I DOUBT I COULD EVER MAKE HIS HEART RACE.
SIGH
I WANT TO HURRY AND GROW UP...
BASHA (SPLASH)
GYU! (CINCH)

THAT WAS SCARY!!!
SIIIGH.
...
ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL YOURSELF!? DAMN IT!!! THINK A LITTLE BEFORE YOU ACT, WOULD YOU!?
WAAAAUGH!
GASHA (RUFFLE)
WHAT WAS I THINKING!? HER FACE WAS WAY TOO CLOSE!! I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA DIE!!
I HAVE NO IMMUNITY TO THAT SORTA THING.
SIGH
I'M STILL A VIRGIN AT THIS AGE, AND IT'S HARD-WIRED.
HA HA HA
...WHY AM I GETTING ALL FLUSTERED OVER A LITTLE KID?
HA (GASP)
NO...MORE IMPORTANTLY ...

...LISTEN UP, SHIN.
HAA (SIGH)
MANAGED TO DEPRESS HIMSELF
ZUUUN (GLOOM)
I GAVE KOYUKI TO YOU ...
...IN ORDER TO ALLY OUR TWO FAMILIES. I HAD NO CHOICE. BUT KOYUKI'S STILL YOUNG...
...AND SO...
KA (GLARE)
...I ABSOLUTELY FORBID YOU TO TOUCH HER BEFORE SHE TURNS TWENTY.
POKAN (BLANK)
UH-HUH ...
KACHIN (CRACK)

DAMMIT!
THAT'S NOT A PROMISE! THIS IS AN ORDER!! IS THAT CLEAR!?
IF YOU LAY ONE FINGER ON KOYUKI...
...I WILL RIP YOUR SPINAL CORD FROM YOUR LIVING BODY!!!
IF YOU WANT TO LIVE A LONG LIFE, BRAND THAT INTO YOUR BRAIN!!
GUU (ROAR)
BIKU FLINCH
BURU (SHAKE)
DON'T WORRY, FATHER.
IT TAKES EVERYTHING I'VE GOT JUST TO HOLD THOSE LITTLE HANDS.
PRETTY SURE I'M TOO GUTLESS TO DO MORE.
TOBO
TOBO

GARARA (RATTLE)
I'M HOME.
SU (SLIDE)
OH! WELCOME BA...
WH-WHAT HAPPENED!? YOUR CLOTHES!!
DO (MUDDY)
I KINDA JUMPED INTO A FIELD ON MY WAY BACK FROM WORK.
THANKS TO THAT, THOUGH, I MANAGED TO RESCUE THIS.
PA (OPEN)
AH!
WHAT IS IT!?
IT'S A SPRITE.
IN THE WESTERN WORLD, THEY CALL THEM "FAIRIES." THEY'RE A BIT LIKE YOUKAI.
SHE WAS HURT SO I BROUGHT HER WITH ME

HEPUCHU (ACHOO)
へぷちゅっ
BIKU (FLINCH)
びくっ

I HEAR PEOPLE USED THE DUST INSTEAD OF CANDLES, LONG AGO.
AT NIGHT, THEY GIVE OFF SHINING DUST.
THEY'RE PROBABLY WINTERING IN THE MOUNTAINS NEARBY.
SHE'S SO TINY
MY...!

BECAUSE OF HIS WORK, SHIN-SAN SEES ALL SORT OF WONDERS.

THANKS.
I'LL BRING YOU SOMETHING TO DRY OFF WITH TOO!
I'LL GET THE BATH READY RIGHT AWAY.
KYUU (CHUCK)

...AND SHIN-SAN IS KINDLY TEACHING ME HOW TO "SEE."
I'M ORDI-NARY ...
...BUT ORDINARY PEOPLE JUST DON'T NOTICE.
HE SAYS ANYONE WHO PAYS ATTENTION CAN SEE THEM...

IT'S LIKE SOMETHING FROM A DREAM.
AS IF I'M SEEING ANOTHER WORLD...
IT'S SO MUCH FUN.

NADE
NADE (PAT)

POSO. (MURMUR)
WHAT AM I, I WONDER.
ZUUUN (GLOOM)
HE ALWAYS TREATS ME LIKE A CHILD ...
AM I MANAGING TO BE A PROPER WIFE?
I DRESSED HER WOUND.
SHE SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE IT BACK TO HER FRIENDS NOW.
SUI (SWISH)
HMM?
KURU (SPIN)
KURU
THAT'S WONDERFUL.

ISH... AA! (KOJAWKA-SON!)
アアアア
CHU (KISS)
ちゅっ
AH.
SH-SHIN-SAN... SHE JUST... K-KUH... KISSED...
PURU (SHIV)
PURU
TAKE CARE
!?
!?
C-CASUAL?
IT WAS PROBABLY JUST A CASUAL GESTURE.
SARA (NONCHALANT)
THEY'RE ORIGINALLY FROM THE WEST. THAT'S WHY.

WHAT?
KYUU (SQUEEZE)
SHE MAY HAVE BEEN THANKING ME FOR HELPING HER.
I HEAR IT'S NORMAL IN THE WESTERN WORLD.
HMM?
SUKU (RISE)
KUI (TUG)
WELL, LET'S GO HAVE DINNER.
UM... SHIN-SAN!
PLEASE ...
...THANK ME... TOO.

H-HEY, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I CLEAN EVERY DAY!!
I WORKED HARD TO GET THE BATH AND DINNER READY TOO!
I DID...THE LAUNDRY!
I—!
HUH?
...LIKE WHAT A HUSBAND AND WIFE WOULD DO.
SO I... I'D LIKE TO DO SOMETHING THAT'S JUST A LITTLE BIT...
THAT'S, UH...
.....
SIGH...
ORO
ORO
IS THAT... TOO MUCH TO ASK?

...
KOYUKI.
SU (SHUF)
JUST ONCE. ALL RIGHT?
SHIN-SAN'S SCENT.
HE'S SO CLOSE.
AH...
GYUU (SQUEEZE)
EEEEEE...
OH...

UH.
PUNYUN (OOINK)
KAA (BLUSH)
BON (BOOMF)
PA (RELEASE)
PISHA (CLACK)
DAA (CRASH)
I...
I'M SORRY FOR ASKING SOMETHING WEIRD!
AH—
THAT...

WHAT! AM I!! DOING !!!?
GASHA (RUFFLE)
ZUKURU (SLIDE)
AAAAAAH...
THAT STARTLED ME!!
COME TO THINK OF IT, THOUGH, I'VE BEEN A VIRGIN AS LONG AS I'VE BEEN ALIVE! AT THIS AGE! I AM A KID!!
AM I AN IDIOT!? WHY'D I JUST GO ALONG WITH IT LIKE THAT!? AND MY MASK HIT HER— WHAT AM I, A KID!?
ZUUUN (GLOOM)
AAAAAGH, I'M SO EMBARRASSED!
I ASKED FOR THAT AS THANKS! HE MUST THINK I'M A HUSSY!
THANK HEAVENS FOR THE MASK! THREE CHEERS FOR MASKS!!
I THOUGHT MY HEART WOULD EXPLODE. MY FACE MUST BE AWFUL RIGHT NOW!
GU (CLENCH)
OH, HONESTLY!! HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FACE SHIN-SAN NOW!?

TO BE CONTINUED!

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STORY
Shizuku Totono

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TRANSLATION: TAYLOR ENGEL
LETTERING: BIANCA PISTILLO

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Yen Press
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10104

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First Yen Press eBook Edition: February 2017

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ISBN: 978-0-316-47407-8 (ebook)